

In the Claims:

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) An interactive wireless device comprising:

an optical receiver, the optical receiver including means adapted for receiving a first digitally encoded, optical signal from an associated, complementary, interactive wireless device, which first digitally encoded, optical signal is generally obfuscated from human perception;

an optical/electrical transducer, the optical/electrical transducer including means for generating an electrical, digital logic signal corresponding to an optical signal received into the optical receiver;

a decoder, the decoder including means adapted for decoding the digital logic signal to generate at least one control signal corresponding to the received optical signal;

an output unit, the output unit including means adapted for generating a humanly cognizable output response from the interactive wireless device in accordance with the at least one control signal;

an electrical/optical transducer, the electrical/optical transducer including means for generating a second digitally encoded optical signal; and

means adapted for communication of the second digitally encoded optical signal to the associated, complementary interactive wireless device.

42. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 41 further comprising:

a memory, the memory including means for storing data representative of at least one pre-selected motivational signal, which motivational signal corresponds to a desired response behavior of the associated, complementary interactive wireless device;

the second digitally encoded optical signal corresponding to the at least one pre-selected motivational signal.

43. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 42 further comprising:

an external activation switch, the external activation switch including means adapted for receiving a humanly-initiated activation signal to commence an interactive dialog with the associated, complementary interactive wireless device via the second digitally encoded optical signal.

44. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 43 wherein the activation switch is comprised of at least one of a wireless receiver and a manually-activated switch.

45. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 43 further comprising:

a movement signal output, the signal output including means for generating movement signal corresponding to a selected mechanical motion in accordance with at least one of the motivational signal, the activational signal and the received optical signal; and

a physical response unit, the physical response unit including means responsive to movement signal, so as to cause the interactive wireless device to initiate at least one selected, mechanical motion corresponding thereto.

46. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 45 wherein the physical response unit includes a sound generator.

47. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 45 wherein the physical response unit further includes at least one electromechanical transducer for selectively engaging in mechanical manipulation of the interactive wireless device.

48. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 41 wherein the interactive wireless device and the associated, complementary interactive wireless device each comprise a toy.

49. (New) A method of controlling an interactive device comprising the steps of:

receiving a first digitally encoded, optical signal from an associated, complementary, interactive wireless device, which first digitally encoded, optical signal is generally obfuscated from human perception;

generating an electrical, digital logic signal corresponding to an optical signal received into the optical receiver;

decoding the digital logic signal to generate at least one control signal corresponding to the received optical signal;

generating a humanly cognizable output response from the interactive wireless device in accordance with the at least one control signal;

generating a second digitally encoded optical signal; and

communicating the second digitally encoded optical signal to the associated, complementary interactive wireless device.

50. (New) The method of controlling an interactive device of Claim 49 further comprising the steps of:

retrieving data representative of at least one pre-selected motivational signal, which motivational signal corresponds to a desired response behavior of the associated, complementary interactive wireless device; and

generating the second digitally encoded optical signal corresponding to the at least one pre-selected motivational signal.

51. (New) The method of controlling an interactive device of Claim 50 further comprising the step of receiving a humanly-initiated activation signal to commence an interactive dialog with the associated, complementary interactive wireless device via the second digitally encoded optical signal.

52. (New) The method of controlling an interactive device of Claim 51 further comprising the steps of:

generating movement signal corresponding to a selected mechanical motion in accordance with at least one of the motivational signal, the activation signal and the received optical signal; and

causing the interactive wireless device to initiate at least one selected mechanical motion corresponding to the movement signal.

53. (New) The method of Claim 52 wherein the step of causing the interactive wireless device to initiate at least one selected mechanical motion further comprises the step of generating an auditory output corresponding to a pre-selected speech pattern.

54. (New) An interactive wireless device comprising:

an infrared receiver, the infrared receiver including means adapted for receiving a first digitally encoded, infrared signal from an associated, complementary, interactive wireless device;

an optical/electrical transducer, the optical/electrical transducer including means for generating an electrical, digital logic signal corresponding to an infrared signal received into the optical receiver;

a decoder, the decoder including means adapted for decoding the digital logic signal to generate at least one control signal corresponding to the received infrared signal; and

an audiovisual output, the audiovisual output including means adapted for generating a humanly cognizable output response from the interactive wireless device in collaborative, interactive communication between the interactive wireless device and the associated, complementary interactive wireless device;

an infrared LED, the infrared LED including means for generating a second digitally encoded infrared signal;

means adapted for communication of the second digitally encoded infrared signal to the associated, complementary interactive wireless device; and

an external activation switch, the external activation switch including means adapted for receiving a humanly-initiated activation signal to commence an interactive dialog with the associated, complementary wireless device via the second digitally encoded infrared signal.

55. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 54 further comprising:

a memory, the memory including means for storing data representative of at least one pre-selected motivational signal, which motivational signal corresponds to a desired response behavior of the associated, complementary interactive wireless device;

the second digitally encoded infrared signal corresponding to the at least one pre-selected motivational signal.

56. (New) The interactive wireless device of Claim 54 wherein the interactive wireless device and the associated, complementary interactive wireless device each comprise a toy.